



300 Country Club Road, Wylie, Texas 75098
www.wylietexas.gov

City of Wylie
Public Information Office
PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Wylie to Dedicate Octopitcher vs. Batterpillar
The Battle Begins in Wylie's Community Park

Wylie, TX, March 7, 2013 – The Wylie City Council and the Public Art Advisory Board invite you to attend the Public Art Dedication of *Up Your Game: Batterpillar vs. Octopitcher*, Saturday, March 23, 10:30 AM, Community Park, 800 Thomas Street. The dedication is being held in conjunction with opening day ceremonies for the Wylie Youth Baseball Association.

The larger than life *Up Your Game: Batterpillar vs. Octopitcher* public art installation greets kids both young and old as they approach Wylie's Community Park baseball complex. According to artist Johnny Edwards, the design consists of two animal figures, a caterpillar and octopus, facing off in a contest of strengths. On one side of the walkway stands the ten foot tall Batterpillar holding five bats, ready to take a pitch. On the other side, the nine foot tall, 15 foot in diameter, Octopitcher eyes the Batterpillar, with seven baseballs in tentacles, ready to pitch.

"It's a classic battle between two imaginary giants of the baseball world," said artist Johnny Edwards when asked about his inspiration behind the piece. "Who would want to face a ball hurling octopus on the pitcher's mound?...It's an epic battle of superstars."

The Batterpillar and Octopitcher appear to be growing trees but are actually fashioned out of cement placed onto steel armatures. Johnny says the viewer often assumes his pieces to be

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wood carvings but realize upon further examination that they have been hand sculpted from cement.

More details on *Up Your Game: Batterpillar vs. Octopitcher*, and artist Johnny Edwards can be found at www.eyecandyfab.com.

The City of Wylie Public Art Program dedicates 1% of project costs to Public Art. The artists was selected through a public process and commissioned by the Public Art Advisory Board and City Council.

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